

## XXVII.—ARRIVAL DATES OF MIGRANT BIRDS IN COORG.

I subpend a list of arrival dates of migrants this cold weather in case they may be of interest.

- September 3. Marsh Harrier.  
 September 5. Grey Wagtail.  
 September 9. Pintail Snipe.  
 September 21. Common Indian Bee-eater (Local migrant).  
 September 17. Eastern Swallow.  
 September 29. Brown Shrike.  
 October 5. Great Reed Warbler.  
 October 5. Red Breasted Flycatcher.  
 October 8. Black Drongo (Local migrant).  
 October 10. Indian Oriole (Local migrant).  
 October 16. Indian Pitta (Local migrant).  
 October 17. Black-headed Cuckoo Shrike (Local migrant).  
 October 17. Blue-headed Rock Thrush.  
 October 18. Indian Blue Chat.  
 October 19. Forest Wagtail.  
 October 26. White Wagtail.  
 November 3. Indian Tree Pipit.  
 October 26. Verditer Flycatcher.  
 November 23. Hoopoe (Local migrant).  
 December 2. Yellow-Throated Sparrow (Local migrant).

Most species were a week or so later in arriving this season than usual.

COOVERCOLLY,

SOMWARPET, COORG.

F. N. BETTS.

December 31, 1934.

XXVIII.—AN ADDITION TO THE LIST OF SNAKES OF BOMBAY AND SALSETTE: *CORONELLA BRACHYURA*.

I am sending you under separate cover a specimen of *Coronella brachyura* which I recently obtained at Marole, in Salsette Island. This species is not listed in Mr. Prater's *Snakes of Bombay Island and Salsette*.

Another snake that does not appear to have been recorded from our Island is *Typhlops acutus*. There are two specimens of this snake in the collection at St. Xavier's College, Bombay, one obtained by Mr. C. McCann at Tulsi, and the other by myself at Andheri.

*Trimeresurus anamalensis* is recorded as 'straying into Mahim wood' by Vidal (*J.B.N.H.S.*, v, p. 65). Does the specimen exist? or is it to be considered as a result of confusion with *gramineus*?

GODREJ HOUSE,

ANDHERI.

April 23, 1935.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI.

[*Coronella brachyura*, a rare snake has hitherto been recorded only from the Deccan. Its discovery in Salsette indicates an extension of its range into the Konkan. It is probable that Vidal's record of the occurrence of the Anamalay Viper *T. anamalensis* in Mahim is the result of a confusion with the Common Green Pit Viper (*T. gramineus*). The latter is found in the hills of Salsette. One was killed at Malabar Hill, Bombay, where it was found in a grass cart. Snakes are sometimes imported in this way. There is in the Society's collection a hatchling of a Malay Python (*P. reticulatus*) which was killed while unloading teak from a ship in the Bombay Docks.—EDS.]

### XXIX.—A FURTHER LIST OF SNAKES FROM AHMEDNAGAR.

In continuation of my note on 'Snakes at Ahmednagar' published in the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* on 15th November 1932, this note is sent, which covers a period of about 14 months, from 8th June 1932, on my return from leave, to 3rd August 1933, when I was transferred to Belgaum as Civil Surgeon. During this time an additional number of snakes was seen by me—230 from the Town and District of Nagar. This brings the total number of snakes seen from this district, including those mentioned in my previous note, to 479 and hence is useful as a general index of the variety of snakes found in this part, the number being sufficiently large for this purpose. Out of the 230 snakes, 39 were from Visapur, 36 from Newasa, 6 from Jamkhed, 3 from Shevgaon, 2 from Parner and 1 from Toka, in Ahmednagar District.

The snakes were:—

1. The Common Blind Snake (*Typhlops braminus*)—9. 8 of these were found in my (Civil Surgeon's) bungalow.
2. The Red Earth-Boa (*Eryx conicus*)—11. 6 of these were from Nagar and 5 from the District. The longest was 2 ft.
3. Python (*Python molurus*)—1. This was 7 ft. long and was brought from Kharda in the District and was seen with a snakeman.
4. Checkered Water-Snake (*Tropidonotus piscator*)—7. 6 from the District and 1 from Nagar.
5. Buff-Striped Keel-back (*Tropidonotus stolatus*)—1. A complete cast skin of this snake was seen.
6. Green Keel-back (*Macropisthodon plumbicolor*)—49. 27 from Nagar and 22 in the District. In my last note I had mentioned 32, so it is quite a common snake (81 out of 479). The hatching period of this snake seems to be the month of June as young specimens 7 in. and 8 in. long were commonly seen in June and July.
7. Common Wolf Snake (*Lycodon aulicus*)—28. 22 from Nagar and 6 from the District. Another common snake (76 out of 479). A brood of 6 young ones, about 8 in. long, was found in one of the rooms of the Ahmednagar Club on 22nd May 1933,

8. Dhaman (*Zamenis mucosus*)—12. 9 from Nagar and 3 from the District. The longest was 8 ft., another being 7 ft. 8 in.

9. Fasciolated Dhaman (*Zamenis fasciolatus*)—5. One from Nagar and 4 from the District, all from Visapur, where this seems to be a common snake.

10. The Spotted or the Graceful Dhaman (*Zamenis gracilis*)—4. 2 from Nagar and 2 from the District.

11. The Trinket Snake (*Coluber helena*)—22. A common enough snake (total number 56). 16 were from the Town and 6 from the District. In the Town of Nagar this is a common snake. The longest was 50 in., some other big ones being 47½ in., 46 in., 44 in. and 42 in. One 38 in. long was seen on the ledge of the deep well in my compound, about 4 ft. from the surface of the water and was brought up alive, entangled on lowering some small branches of the ordinary Ber tree on a rope, on 8th December 1933.

12. The Common Brown Tree Snake (*Dipsadomorphus trigonatus*)—21. 11 from Nagar and 10 from the District. A fairly common snake (total number 55). One good fresh live specimen was secured from the well in my compound on 17th November 1932 where it was seen swimming. It was brought up entangled on Ber twigs (*Zizyphus jujuba*, Natural order, *Rhamnaceae*). The well has a wall about 3 ft. high and the snake must have fallen in the well from an overhanging Pilu tree (*Salvadora persica*, Natural order; *Salvadoraceae*), where probably it went in search of bird's eggs.

Two were also seen swimming in the well in the Dispensary at Shevgaon, whence they were also brought up alive.

13. The Common Kukri Snake (*Oligodon subgriseus*)—2. 1 from Nagar and 1 from the district.

14. The Banded Kukri Snake (*Simotes arnensis*)—2. 1 from Visapur in the District and 1 from the well in my compound, where it was seen swimming on 17th November 1932 and was brought up similarly to the common Brown Tree Snake mentioned in 11 above and on the same date.

15. The Three-striped Coral Snake (*Callôphis trimaculatus*)—2. From the district—1 from Newasa and 1 from Visapur.

16. The Common Krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*)—9. 2 from Visapur in the District and 2 were from my bungalow compound; 1 from the compound of the Indian Military Hospital. One was found at 3 a.m. in the engine room of the City Electric Supply Co. One 9 in. long was found on 17th July 1932. The hatching period of this snake here seems to be the months of June and July.

In my last note I had mentioned that no kraits were found on the south side of Bhingar Nullah, but in this lot, 4 were found on the south side and 3 on the north of the nullah, showing that its distribution is not limited to either side.

17. The Cobra (*Naia tripudians*)—27. 15 from near Nagar and 12 from the District. 1 wheaten-coloured from Kharda. The others were dark coloured. All were binocellate. The longest was 62 in., the other big ones being 56 in., 48 in. and 43 in.

18. The Russell's Viper (*Vipera russelli*)—4. All from the District. 3 from Newasa and 1 from Toka, six miles from Newasa, where the River Pravara joins the Godavari River.

19. The Phoorsa (*Echis carinata*)—8. All these were found in one place only in the District, at Newasa, which is on the River Pravara. They were all found in the Dispensary compound which is very near the bank of the river. If anyone wishes to get Phoorsas in this district, this is a place to remember.

These were all the 19 species found and mentioned in my last note. Four other species were also found in this new collection. These are:—

20. *Typhlops porrectus*. A variety of blind snake, not recorded from this District before. It was seen at Jamkhed Dispensary in the District on 19th January 1933.

21. Spot-bellied Polyodont (*Polyodontophis subpunctatus*)—3. 2 from Nagar and 1 from Newasa in the District.

22. Yellow-spotted Wolf Snake (*Lycodon flavomaculatus*). Only 1 specimen was found near Cursetjee's shop in the Ahmedabad Cantonment on 29th November 1932. This is the first one recorded from Nagar though it has been recorded from Poona, Nasik, Dharwar, Sangli, in the Western Ghats.

23. *Coronella brachyura*. One specimen of this from Visapur in the District was seen on 1st December 1932. This is considered a rare species as only three specimens were recorded until recently (from Poona and Berar). Dr. Lindberg from Kurduwadi, Sholapur District, in his note in the *Bombay Natural History Society Journal* of November 1932 on 'Snakes on the Barsi Light Railway' mentioned that he collected 10 of these. So this species is not so rare as it was made out to be but is fairly common in the Deccan and probably in the adjoining parts of Berar. But being a small thin snake few persons kill it or preserve it. The specimen I got in Visapur is in the British Museum now.

POONA.

K. G. GHARPUREY,

June 23, 1934.

*Lt.-Col., I.M.S.,*

*Offg. Surgeon-General with the Govt. of Bombay.*

### XXX.—MATING OF THE HAMADRYAD OR KING COBRA (*NAIA BUNGARUS* SCHLEG.).

On the 28th instant at 5-30 p.m., after returning from a walk I was ascending the hill leading to my bungalow, which is 80 ft. above the alluvium flats, a coolie drew my attention to what I would describe as a bundle of snakes, all entangled, coming down the hill towards me. On making closer investigation, I found it was two Hamadryads mating. I immediately sent for my gun and the first shot hit the smaller one of the two, which at once fastened its fangs on to the larger one. The second shot hit the big one in the centre of the back and it in turn seized the smaller one by the head. The third shot into the hood finished him off.

Both snakes were jet black in colour, with bluish markings underneath. The inner side of the hoods were yellow with a tinge

of red around the edges. The measurements of the bigger one were as follows:—

Length.	12 feet 10 inches.
Circumference.	10 inches.
Width of head.	3½ do.
Width of hood.	1 foot 2 inches.

I might mention that when the hood was measured, it was not unduly stretched.

I only measured the length of the small one which was 8 ft. I have had the heads of the snakes cut off and placed in a covered basket in a stream and when the flesh has fallen away, I shall forward the skulls for your inspection.

As old Karen and Burman jungle folks have informed me that they have never come across a Hamadryad the length and size of the larger one I shot, it would be interesting to know if this is anything like a record.

PALAW,

Via Mergui.

January 31, 1935.

W. J. L. SMITH,

Manager,

Malayan and General Trust (1933), Ltd.

[The largest known Hamadryad, the skin of which is in the collection of the Society, measured 15 ft. 5 in. Col. Wall records two specimens of over 14 ft. There is a reference to an 18 ft. specimen in Ditmar's *Snakes of the World*.—Eds.]

### XXXI.—OCCURRENCE OF *DIPSADOMORPHUS MULTI-MACULATA* SCHLEG. IN ASSAM.

An example of this snake was sent to the Society for identification by Major C. S. P. Hamilton, Chief Medical Officer, Juri Valley Medical Association, Juri, South Sylhet, Assam. Boulenger, *Fauna of British India*, 'Reptiles', p. 361, limits the distribution of this species to Burma, Southern China, Siam, Malay Peninsula and Archipelago.

BOMBAY NAT. HIST. SOCIETY.

February 15, 1934.

S. H. PRATER,

C.M.Z.S.

### XXXII.—THE COMMON CHAMAELEON (*CHAMAELEON ZEYLANICUS* LAURENTI) IN GUJARAT.

I noticed a note in Vol. xxxvi, No. 2 by Mr. Acharya on the unfrequent occurrence of *Chamaeleon calcaratus*<sup>1</sup> in Gujarat. It might interest readers to know that in July 1933 our servants caught a very fine and large specimen in a Nim tree beside the bungalow in our compound in Borsad. He was very friendly and

<sup>1</sup> [*Chamaeleon calcaratus* Boulenger is now considered a synonym of *C. zeylanicus* Laurenti.—Eds.]

we even managed to get a photograph of him which however would not bear reprinting owing to the dullness of the monsoon day.

Again in September 1934 a young one was caught at the College. He was full of fun and walked all over me without showing any anger or fear except when he noticed the tiny coloured flowers on my frock, when he puffed himself out and spat and tried to snap at what he must have thought were wonderful insects which would make a delicious meal!

These are the only two I have seen in nine years in Gujarat.

MARY BROWN MEMORIAL TRAINING COLLEGE.

BORSAD.  
February 7, 1935.

AGNES T. BARRY,  
Principal.

### XXXIII.—RATE OF GROWTH OF THE MUGGER [*CROCODILUS PALUSTRIS* (LESSON)].

On the 1st June 1915, I secured a baby mugger 11 in. long, which had recently left the egg. I kept it in the vivarium of the Museum where it lived for over 19 years, growing yearly at the rate of 2 to 9 in. or a rough average of 4 in. yearly. As it had attained to over a length of 7 ft. and as no suitable accommodation could be secured for it locally I have presented it to the Victoria Gardens, Bombay.

CENTRAL MUSEUM, NAGPUR.  
November 15, 1934.

E. A. D'ABREU,  
F.Z.S.

### XXXIV.—BUTTERFLIES OF LAHORE.

I have read Brigadier W. H. Evans's comment on my reply to his original note on my paper on the 'Butterflies of Lahore' (*Bulletin of the Department of Zoology*, Panjab University, vol. i, pp. 1-61, pl. i-iv, April 1931) published in the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*, vol. xxxv, No. 4, dated 15th July 1932. I would once more emphasize the fact that only one specimen each of the four species under discussion was collected by me from Lahore. It is not certain whether those species occur in a wild state in Lahore or the specimens I collected had been imported from elsewhere.

According to Brigadier Evans 'Mr. Antram's record of *Melitaea didyma* from the Punjab is certainly incorrect'. I may point out that the above species has been recorded from the Punjab by Bingham also (*Fauna of British India*, 'Butterflies', vol. i, 1905, p. 454).

Brigadier Evans's remark that the species which Mr. Rhe-Philipe missed from Lahore and which were subsequently collected by me 'have doubtless existed there for centuries' seems to imply that the butterfly fauna of a locality does not undergo any change.